

The Gateway

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Clearing the Confusion: UNO and Unocal

by Renée Novy
Staff Writer

Unocal, the Texas-based oil conglomerate in partnership with UNO's Center for Afghanistan Studies will not opt to renew a contract with the center to operate a educational and potential business exchange project.

However, contrary to recent reports, Unocal Asia Ltd. is *not* currently withdrawing financial support from the Afghanistan Training and Education Program (ATEP.)

"What?! No, we are *not* withdrawing support from the program. We haven't pulled the plug," said Terry Covington, corporate communications/public relations manager of Unocal.

"We have been very pleased with not only the program, but the experience and the talent the Afghanistan Studies program brought to [the ATEP program], Covington said. "What we saw was the ability to set up a program in a very short time under extremely difficult circumstances within only six months."

"The thing we talked to UNO about was fact that right now Unocal is funding this project alone although we're part of a seven-member consortium," she said. "We took on this project before the consortium was formed."

In fact, Thomas Gouttierre, dean of International Studies and the main facilitator for the ATEP project said that when the Center for Afghanistan Studies first en-

tered into contract with Unocal to develop the ATEP project, there was just "a possibility of renewal."

"The contract was originally for one year for \$900,000 with prospects for another year," Gouttierre said. "This [action] was not as unexpected as may have been suggested."

As far as the decision to review whether or not to renew the contract, Gouttierre said he imagines that Unocal had two major considerations: "One, how well we were doing, and two, the status of the project as they saw it."

"It needs to be clarified that

Unocal is the leader of a very large consortium — Central Asia Gas Pipeline (CentGas.) Unocal has expressed the hope that the consortium will make the decision to continue our projects," Gouttierre said, "but that as [Unocal] is now a member of the consortium, it is not likely that it can go it alone with us in this project," he said.

Previous articles on the subject including the Tuesday, June 9, 1998 edition of the *Gateway*, which contained facts obtained from the Saturday, June 6, 1998 *OmahaWorld-Herald* indicated the decision not to renew the contract coincided with the disclosure

that a UNO staff member escorted two senior officials of the Afghanistan Taliban movement on a week-long tour of Nebraska and South Dakota during the last week of May. In addition, this article states that "the visitors were sponsored officially by a State Department agency... but they were first brought to the United States by Unocal."

A coincidence? "I don't think so," said Mohammed Bashere, coordinator of International Studies programs and local liaison for the ATEP project.

See UNOCAL page 10

Enter Yet Another Vice Chancellor

by Mollie Harter
Staff Writer

Early July is the expected arrival date of UNO's newest vice chancellor, Derek Hodgson. He will serve as the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Hailing from Mississippi State University (MSU), where he served as provost and vice president for academic affairs, Hodgson is excited and optimistic about UNO's future.

In an e-mail interview, Hodgson touched upon some issues he sees as key for UNO's quality of academic preservation.

Student retention is his highest priority of the issues he

plans to tackle. Hodgson said he plans to replicate programs he used at MSU.

"Retention and student success are the responsibility of every member of the UNO family, but I am very happy to take the lead in that issue," Hodgson said.

Another matter of great importance is the existence of high quality undergraduate and graduate instruction to students. Hodgson said that the majority of the budget is directed toward those goals.

"The chancellor has to strike a delicate balance between all of these worthy programs," he said. "I look forward to helping her (Chancellor Nancy Belek) with these complex decisions."

Hodgson is also hopeful that the new dorms will generate an increase in the number of applications from out of state and traditional age freshmen, and sees it as a new focus for students.

Significant improvement in the public perception of UNO is

see Vice Chancellor, page 2

Smee and Blogg Rock the House

by Stephen Croucher
Staff Writer



photo by Chris Machlan

Smee and Blogg doing the executioners dance at the Faire held at Iowa Western Community College over the weekend.

Were you looking for enchantment, merriment, fascination and dazzlement last weekend? Then the 15th Annual Renaissance Faire of the Midlands was the place to be.

The faire held at Iowa Western Community College between June 12 and 14 was a smashing success.

Entertainment ranging from knights, royalty, wenches, jesters, prisoners, idiots, craftsmen, ogres and dragon slayers transported all who walked through the hollowed gates into a renaissance wonderland.

"I liked it," said Ryan Price, a junior criminal justice major. "As I approached the gates I saw all the excitement

See FAIRE, page 8

Technology Could Change Library's Future

by Eileen Kenney
Senior Staff Writer

The yellow tape stretched across a portion of the UNO Library's first floor doesn't cord off the scene of a crime. Rather, it encloses the safety area of a \$5,000 renovation project for the Special Collections Room.

This is only the second renovation for the library since its dedication in 1976. The first was another small project over 10

years ago, the addition of reference offices on the main floor.

Funding for the current renovation comes from nips and tucks to the library's general fund. "We saved our money because we felt this was so necessary," said Janice S. Boyer, the library's interim director. "We are quickly growing out of this building and we certainly have to use the space we have available."

There has been talk of a major renovation/expansion pro-

gram for the library for years. Teresa Klein, director of communications for the University of Nebraska Foundation, said the term "infodome" had been mentioned and bantered about for a number of years.

In 1996, a "wish list" survey of the Omaha, Lincoln and Kearney chancellors and deans by the NU Foundation indicated library funding as very high on each campus' priority list.

see LIBRARY, page 11

Inside This Issue

NEWS:

UNO Rejected, page 2

OPED:

Evil Clerks, page 4

REVIEW:

"Ugly Americans", page 5

UNMC NEWS:

Herbal Interactions, page 7

Omaha, UNO Rejected As Regional Hockey Hosts

by Andy Nordmeier
Senior Staff Writer

Nope. Denied. Shot Down.

Those are three of the many phrases that could be used to describe the decision made by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) about UNO's bid to host a West Regional in the NCAA hockey tournament.

According to Dennis Poppe, director of NCAA championships, UNO was denied because of two reasons.

"It was strictly facilities and accommodations," Poppe said in a May 5 *Omaha World-Herald* article.

This seems to fly in the face of recent history. This is the same Omaha that just finished holding the College World Series and accommodating the teams, fans and entourages that followed them. Add to that the fact that the 1996 West Regional Hockey Tournament was held in an arena smaller than the 8,314 seat Civic Auditorium; Munn Ice Arena in Lansing, Mich. has a capacity of 6,800.

UNO Athletic Director Bob Danenhauer commented on the outcome.

"We lost out to a variable we had no control over," Danenhauer said Wednesday.

UNO was bidding to host either the 2000 or 2001 West Regional. The 200 re-

gional was awarded to the University of Minnesota and its 10,000-plus seat Mariucci Center. In 2001, VanAndel Arena in Grand Rapids, Mich. will play host. VanAndel seats over 11,000 and was the site of the 1997 regional.

Some of the past sites for the regionals have been Detroit's Joe Louis Arena and the Dane County Coliseum on the campus of the University of Wisconsin. Both seat over 15,000.

Dane County Coliseum will host the 1999 regionals. The common thread between the next three regional sites is that they were either built or renovated within the last decade.

"We get a chance to show the NCAA and the rest of the country how well we run our hockey operations," Danenhauer said. Omaha would have benefited from the additional money spent in hotels, restaurants and around the area.

Despite not winning, Danenhauer says UNO will apply again in the future.

"We've got to take what we have and stay positive with that," Danenhauer said. "That's competition."

Poppe was unavailable for comment.

New Regent Comes Aboard

by Wendy Townley
Staff Writer

University of Nebraska Board of Regents President L. Dennis Smith announced Wednesday that Kim Robak will become the latest addition to the Board of Regents.

Robak is currently the Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska and her term will end Jan. 7, 1999, when she is appointed as Vice President for External Affairs and Corporation Secretary.

Robak replaces J.B. Milliken who, earlier in the year, accepted a position with the University of North Carolina. Milliken's will leave Nebraska July 10.

Smith said that Robak brings "expertise" to NU.

This "expertise" may have been ob-

tained through her several years of working in Nebraska politics.

Governor Ben Nelson appointed Robak as his legal council in 1991. Later she was named Chief of Staff to the Governor in 1992. In October, 1993, Robak was appointed Lieutenant Governor and will maintain that position until her term begins with NU.

Robak's appointment will be decided by a vote at the June 20 Regents meeting. Her starting date coincides with the inauguration date of the new lieutenant governor.

Smith said he has no plans of appointing an interim vice chancellor for the six months the position will be vacant. Smith said that he has asked Ron Withem, director of governmental relations and Dara Troutman, director of communications, to assume additional responsibilities prior to Robak's arrival.

UNO Offers Accommodations for Learning Disabled

by Kim Schlingman
Staff Writer

"There are services here at UNO for people with all disabilities, including learning disabilities."

— Wendy Nielson,
UNO special needs counselor

As much as 15-20 percent of the U.S. population has some form of a learning disability, according to the National Institute of Health.

Neurological in origin, a learning disability can affect one's ability to read, write, speak or comprehend math.

Learning disabilities can't be cured, but an individual can learn to compensate for their disability with appropriate support, diagnosis, and skills training.

"There are services here at UNO for

people with all disabilities, including learning disabilities," said Wendy Nielson, UNO special needs counselor. "These individuals have to want help, and seek the available assistance offered by the university."

Documentation of the learning disability must be obtained before services are available. The Special Needs Department provides a list of qualified professionals who are trained to diagnose learning disabilities.

The evaluation consists of an initial diagnostic interview, which includes the individual's past history as well as present problems. Next, the assessment involves a series of tests to evaluate aptitude, academic ability, and information processing. In addition, a specific diagnosis rules out any alternative explanations, such as attentional or motivational problems. All these factors are analyzed to complete the clinical summary.

Many students are aware they have a learning disability, because of early de-

See DISABLED, page 8

from VICE CHANCELLOR, page 1

also an area that Hodgson expects to see change in.

The new Aksarben campus will put emphasis on information science and technology, allowing for competitive graduates in these fields and adding to other strong programs the university already has.

"As our graduates take an increasing number of the leading positions in the community, the perception of the quality of the university will increase," Hodgson

said.

Upon receiving this position, Hodgson sees it as a duty.

"As such, it is my responsibility to ensure that students and faculty receive the support that they need to fulfill their goals," Hodgson said.

Hodgson replaces Ernest Peek, who accepted as position at Arizona State University.

Senate Meeting Brings Seat Change

by Craig Perkins
Staff Writer

Senator Latasha Brooks lost her seat on the Student Senate at Thursday's meeting.

However, Brooks said that she submitted her resignation May 15.

The senate voted on removal of Senator Latasha Brooks. When the topic was introduced, Brooks mentioned a letter she had sent to the senators.

Brooks was given a chance to make a statement, which she declined. When instructed to wait outside while a vote was taken, she left the meeting.

Several senators cited this action as more of the same behavior that provoked the initial removal proceedings.

Kyle Jones, speaker of the senate, cited "excessive absences, problems keeping commitments and attitude" as the reason for removal proceedings in the first place. Jones added that on occasion, Brooks would also be late to meetings and defend herself with an antagonistic attitude.

Brooks said Saturday she resigned from the Student Senate two weeks ago, May 15. Accompanying her resignation was a letter to the Senate.

Addressing Jones' comments, Brooks said that she thinks she has a great attitude. "Yes, I did come late a couple of times," Brooks said Saturday. "I have no animosity towards the senate or against anyone there," she said. "I will now just distance myself."

Extending library hours during the last two weeks of both the spring and fall semesters was approved as well.

Earlier in the meeting, DeAnn Hanisch, the Senate's new Chief Administrative Officer, congratulated everyone on a successful agency director orientation.

Hanisch also addressed the number of available seats on the senate. She will be spreading the word that there are positions available in student government.

Executive Treasurer Michael Erwin later gave his report, thanking everyone for their assistance during his absence. He is working with staff advisor Tara Knudson on a new filing system. Erwin said he will also be trying to get a better understanding of student fees and how they are spent so he will feel "better prepared to answer student's questions."

Erwin said his last goal is to improve communication between his office and the rest of the campus. He is considering monthly reports as well as other tactics.

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The Gateway, an award winning metropolitan university newspaper will soon be interviewing candidates for the position of

Editor-In-Chief for Fall 1998

- We are looking for a **dependable, ambitious, creative** person with strong **writing** and **editing** skills and the ability to get along well with others. Journalism and Pagemaker classes, practical experience on a high school, college or community newspaper, and **drive to succeed** are highly recommended.
- You will be **supervising** a staff of student writers, artists and photographers and be responsible for and have **complete control** of the content of a publication that is read by the university's students, faculty and administrators twice a week.
- If you're excited about holding a most **important** and prestigious student job at UNO - a position that will put you far ahead of the competition when you're looking for that **career opportunity** a couple of years from now - then you may be the individual we're looking for.
- This is a **paid position** with an office in the Milo Bail Student Center.

Sound Good?

Then pick up an application today in the Gateway office, MBSC 115. The deadline for applications is Friday, June 19. Call Carol at 554-2471 if you have any questions or need more information. The interviews will be Wednesday, June 24 at 5:30 pm.

deadline June 19

GatewayOpinion

What Evil Lurks Behind the Clerk's Friendly Smile

by Curtis M. Meyer
Columnist

"In theory, Marge, communism works. In theory." — Homer J. Simpson

Let's talk about an outdated concept. Customer service is, by my definition, being nice to people who don't deserve it, while giving them the opportunity to walk all over you and allowing them the privilege of both laziness and belligerence all at the same time. As a veteran of many a "customer service" job I can tell you firsthand that the customer isn't always right. It's a good theory, but fact is, the customer is an idiot. If the customer were so damn smart they wouldn't need your help in the first place. There were so many times I wanted to reach across the counter and slap that stupid superior grin into the section containing the particular product they happened to be asking about. "Where did you look, asshole?"

Times I wanted to take the fork that blue-haired lady kept "accidentally" dropping on the floor so that I would have to "fetch" her a clean one and just jam it deep into her skull, then declare in climactic, action-movie bravado to the others sitting at the table, "She's done."

For you privileged few out there never forced to become a professional ass-smoother in order to pay the rent, let me just clue you in: that smile you're seeing in every aisle is as fake as your housekeeper's green card. Maybe that strapping, spiky-haired, young man with the nose ring's true calling in life was to sell all-weather tires at Sears, but don't count it. I'm sure he'd rather be at home on the couch in his skivvies, watching *Tiny Times*, sucking the cream filling out of Ho-Hos and drinking Diet Rite. He cursed you and many generations of your offspring to eternal damnation when he heard that annoying "ding" and looked up to see you walk through the front door. Pull back the thin veil that is "customer relations training" and you'll find a seething demon called "human nature" and that demon wants your head on a pike and your corpse slowly turning over a hot spit.

You as the consumer may think you have all the power, but you're only seeing a small part of a much greater reality. I've included three tips to keep the good karma flowing. Consider them an addendum to the commandments.

Thou shalt hire a babysitter. In other words, leave the ankle-biters at home!

Don't take the brats to Applebee's when Chuck E. Cheese's is only a block and half away. Just because you can't get the hang of birth control doesn't mean the rest of us should suffer. A screaming baby makes me want to crush every larynx in a fifty-foot radius with my bare thumbs until the annoying sound stops. In my opinion, children should be locked up like veal cattle until the age of 13, unless they're some kind of prodigy, then they should be allowed to wander as far as the tether surgically attached to their mother or father's right leg will allow. Length of tether will be equated using this simple formula: (IQ/

3) - number of times they've wet the bed = X feet.

Thou shalt do research. Figure out what you need before you walk into the store. Don't ask the clerk what you need. They're not you, they don't know and they don't care. They have shelves to stock and phones to answer. I used to work in a medical bookstore. Here was the most common question: "Uh...duh...what's in this book?" Listen, if I knew what was in all these books, do you think I'd be working for \$7.50 an hour in this hole? Not I'd be the greatest living physician on earth. I'd be cutting you open on this very spot without anesthesia and rearranging your organs so that your metabolism was more efficient and reorganizing your optic nerves so that you could see ultra-violet light through concrete walls. I'd be reanimating Abe Lincoln out of DNA left around the bullet hole in the hat he wore to Ford's Theater. Get a grip, dummy! I just work here.

Thou shalt tip 15 percent, shalt always say "thank you" and shalt not bitch or whine unless thou art, without question, absolutely unsatisfied. Don't "cry wolf" at

the smallest mishap. We know you're just being a jerk to show Aunt Tilda what a powerful and influential stud you've become since your promotion to assistant head custodian. If something really does get screwed up, shrug it off. Be above your emotions. Breathe. There's usually a good excuse for your collectable porcelain Betty Boop doll and Elvis plate order being delayed. Maybe there was a freak blizzard in New York, the Fed Ex plane iced over and went into the East River. Who knows? They didn't burn your steak on purpose, fatso. Chill out! If that beefy, short order cook in the kitchen loses his job because you squeak, not only will you get the grease, but you'll get your ass kicked when he follows you home after you leave the restaurant. If you make it out of the parking lot.

Marx warned us many years ago about the dangers of separating workers from the fruits of their labor, but in the case of customer service — that over-ripe, maggot-infested pomegranate of labors — I think we can make an exception. Segregation can sometimes be a good thing.

On Youthful Idealism and Hindsight

by Carol Vollmer
Guest Columnist

When I first applied for a position as a columnist at the Gateway, I thought this would be like having an open mic, but in print. I then began to mull over ideas for a column and then, after reading columns in the Omaha World-Herald, more thoughtfully, I wondered if I could write without exposing too much of my personal life, which I hold sacred.

I've always had a definite opinion about most things, but am easily turned off by know-it-alls and people who hold the floor in discussions because of the volume of their voice. Don't get me wrong, some of these people are worth listening to, but it's the unreliable braggarts whom I consider conversation polluters.

Columns and editorials give readers the choice to "listen" to the writer or to shut him or her out by turning the page. This is not a polite option in conversation, although you can fake interest and tune out. It's kind of like staring at a professor and not hearing a word he is saying. So, the choice is yours: read on or not.

I've always had a passion for writing and the written word and admire those who seem to have mastered the language with their unique style. I had a teacher in junior high (way back

when) who encouraged me to use my "talent." I loved to write stories in her class, especially the ones where we were given a picture from a magazine and had to create a fictional story.

I continued to write for myself and occasionally look back at my poetry and prose and am enamored by the dramatic stages I went through.

Alas, I didn't follow my teacher's advice, life happened and my career picked me. Steady financial rewards satisfied me for a time and raising two daughters kept me occupied, but then the hollow, mechanical routine was slowly invaded by a creeping dread of unfulfilled passion. I missed enthusiasm and experienced the "is that all there is?" syndrome.

I then decided to return to school and hopefully finish my degree. At first I second-guessed my decision, but after a couple weeks (my usual time to adjust) I found my comfort zone and actually looked forward to studying and learning something new. I was impressed with the number of nontraditional students and entertained by the younger, optimistic traditional students. After working at jobs which promoted conformity and compliance, I was (and am) amazed and thrilled by the differences in students and teachers who are allowed

and encouraged to be unique.

I'm almost ashamed to admit that I am from the generation of free spirits and flower children who have joined the establishment in the name of money.

When I was 18, communes and living off the land was my dream, much to my parents' distress. (They need not have worried; I never stepped far out of convention.)

We were and continue to be extreme thinkers, but believe me, it has left us confused. We professed freedom, but now live as prisoners. We protested the world our parents had left us, but every night after watching or reading the news, I cringe at the conditions of the society my children are left with.

My younger daughter once asked, "Mom, you used to be cool. What happened?" Priorities change. Perceptions change. Hold onto your passions, but be flexible.

Anyway, I consider myself lucky to have rediscovered the real me, even if for only a short time. Being around the Gateway, I envy and admire the students who have found their niche at such an early age and have run with it. I hope their passions lead them into fulfilling careers. There is so much promise and idealism. I hope journalism can hold onto or rediscover some of the truth.

Parting Thoughts

Brian Minturn
Guest Columnist

After 34 years at UNO, Dr. Orville Menard will be leaving his post in the political science department.

Dr. Menard likes to talk about the political science class in which he introduced the idea of a "secret police". He told his students that he had planted "moles" in the class who would report on which students didn't like him, or weren't satisfied with the class. Soon enough, as Dr. Menard had predicted, the class was in open rebellion.

He was finally deposed as professor, and the students began to teach themselves. Needless to say, it did not take long for the students to ask him back. It seems they weren't really learning anything without him at the podium. Dr. Menard can assure anyone who wonders that his class did end up learning quite a bit that semester, despite the fact that he had to sit in the back of the class for a while.

Dr. Menard is a bit of an expert on the French Fifth Republic — in fact, he has written books about it. He chose this exercise to demonstrate the problems Charles de Gaulle faced when French university students revolted during his tenuous presidency. Fortunately, Dr. Menard's class was able to take the whole thing in stride, and realized what lessons had been taught.

see MENARD, page 5

Hello, Are You Paying Attention?

by Renée Novy
Guest Columnist

Ani Di Franco has this little song that comes to my head as I watch CNN, as I read the *New York Times*. "What if no one's watching?"

I think of the 200 people that burned to death in a mall during rioting in Jakarta, Indonesia, never mind my usual attitude towards mall shoppers. But really, fellow students, do any of you know about the three day rioting that caused the president of Asia's authoritarian and longest regime to abdicate? Guess who facilitated the end of that 32 year authoritarian hold? Answer: Indonesian students.

President Suharto, political master, was forced to step down Thursday, May 21. However, he had long since been promising his people that he'd do just that willingly, if ever his government grew too corrupt. But like other countries with similar strife, his government had been taking his people for quite a ride for quite some time now, pocketing various funds like those from the International Monetary Fund and the US, for international golfing trips and gold-lined sinks.

Like the republics of the Soviet Union, Haiti, and various former principalities in Africa, the people rose up (with careful engineering, oops, I mean help from the U.S.) when they had enough. Remember, it's only three meals to a revolution. Hungry? Suharto was lucky.

Unlike Romania's sieve-fisted ruler Ceausescu, who at the genesis of CNN was executed by a war tribunal on international television, Suharto finally saw light, a dark spongy light of the wrongs he had done. Wrongs that caused his country, recently the place to go for international investors, to become a vacated, angry, wasted land.

Now the students have to find themselves a real leader. Not B.J. Habibie, Suharto's vice-president and right hand man, but someone who can rebuild the country without being swallowed by the revolution that established him or her. The punch line: it doesn't take a Marxist to incite or quell a riot that leads to revolution. It just takes the closest stew of thinking minds to find a way to vent.

"Ugly Americans" Get Down and Brassy at the 18th Amendment

by Kathy Daley
Reviewer

The Ugly Americans put on an outstanding show for the audience at the 18th Amendment last Monday night.

The band's combination of funk, pop, and rock created a sound that resembled a cross between Sublime and the Mighty, Mighty Boss Tones. This new sound really got the audience up and moving. Even the middle aged fat guy with no socks and boatshoes couldn't sit still.

The Ugly Americans, who are based in Austin, Texas, recently added five new members, bringing the number of musicians to nine.

The tour guide on this Monday night musical adventure was Bob Schneider, lead vocalist. This young man could sing like a bad boy and made me feel like he was singing right to me, his bad girl. His lyrics were either things I could relate to, or mostly, things I wish that I could relate to.

Bruce "No Stops" Hughes played bass and sang backup vocals. Hughes' fingers moved so well over those guitar strings it made me wonder what he did on those lonely nights up in his bedroom.

David "Snizz" Robinson, who played the drums and also sang backup vocals, was some how able to pound out the rhythm of the crowds heart-beat with two sticks and one foot.

David Boyle played a mean keyboard that would make any dead woman want to get up and dance,

which looked to be the case as a woman, half gone from too much liquor, went onto the dance floor.

Adam "Slowpoke" Temple and Charles Reiser, who played guitar and sang backup vocal that added spirit to the music.

Carlos Sosa's work on saxophone, Fernando Castillo on trumpet, and Raoul "Rolo" Vallejo on trombone gave the band's music a brass edge that put them over the top.

The band resembled more of the Average Americans then the Ugly Americans I thought as a couple of the members of the band warmed up by playing a game of foosball. Sax player Carlos Sosa was anything but ugly.

The band played songs from their new album "Boom Boom Baby" as well as a couple old songs. They even played an audience request Happy Birthday Adrian, adding some new verses of their own.

After the concert I crashed with the song "Tarantula" (not found on their new album) still ringing in my ears.

To my surprise their live performance was ten times better then their CD. The atmosphere they created that night and the sound that they produced was way more exhilarating then any CD could ever capture.

So if you get a chance, see these guys live. No matter what your taste of music is they will have you up and moving.

Book Review:

"Snow Falling on Cedars"

Thuy Tran
Reviewer

David Guterson's "Snow Falling on Cedars" is a dense novel that melds the whodunit suspense of "Homicide," the courtroom intensity of "L.A. Law," and the personal entanglements of "Melrose Place."

The novel, set on the small and isolated island of San Pedro, follows the trial of Kabuo Miyamoto, a Japanese American fisherman, accused of murder. Through the course of this trial, memories emerge of past innocence, past love, past injustices. But above all, memories of exile and the ensuing suspicion of Japanese Americans after Pearl Harbor haunt its residents. With this racial tension hovering over the entire island, Guterson deftly maneuvers his writing so at times it is a tale of bi-racial love, a war story, and a courtroom drama.

These various guises, then, become the backdrops for the development of Guterson's complex and intriguing characters: Kabuo, the great-grandson of a proud Japanese samurai who joins the 442nd Central Postal Directory to prove his bravery and his loyalty to his country, the United States; Hatsue, Kabuo's beautiful wife, who is torn between her American hunger and her Japanese nutrients; and Ishmael Chambers, the cynical journalist imprisoned by memories of his love for Hatsue.

Even Guterson's minor characters avoid the cookie-cutter molds of flat characterization. The island's sheriff, Art Moran, for instance, is not the thumb-hooked-in-belt-loop, hip swaying, beer-bellied, gum smacking officer of the law. Instead, Sheriff Moran is "a man uncomfortable with the accoutrements of his profession, as if he had dressed for a costume party and now wandered about in the disguise." Guterson does have his fun making frequent tongue-in-cheek references to Sheriff Moran's Juicy Fruit gum, but other than that favorite chew, the character maintains his own intricacies.

From MENARD, page 4

While not all of his political science classes became so interesting, Dr. Menard was never short on ideas to get his students' attention. One borderline-dropout freshman remembers the day that Dr. Menard called him aside to compliment him on his class work, and encourage him to stay in school. Now, that student is a double (English/Political Science) major who was very disappointed to find that Dr. Menard's name was not listed in the 1998 Fall Class Schedule.

The novel's brilliance is not based solely on its character portrayal, but also in the richness of details. Guterson's descriptions of the abounding cedar trees lure the readers to also gather moss around the cedar tree's base as cushion from the fleshy, protruding roots, or to squat beneath the protective branches to ward off the misty summer rain.

In describing the usual summer rain, Guterson claims that the "rain echoed in the canopy of leaves above the beat against the sword ferns, which twitched under each drop" so that readers hear the cadences of the raindrops as if it is raining at this exact moment. Such intimate illustrations, as well as his depictions of the fields of lush, red strawberries, of the snowstorm's fickleness, and of the hushed judgments in the courtroom all help validate Guterson as the Frost of prose.

Yet, "Snow Falling on Cedars" is made unforgettable due to its passive aggressiveness. The insulation and the detachment of San Pedro island from the rest of mainland America may suggest a false comfort in immunity, but this detached view of San Pedro island is actually a microcosmic outlook of the larger human community. Without glaring "LOOK HERE" signs, the novel quietly addresses the issues of race, justice, and forgiveness.

Its characterization and verisimilitude secures our connection to the residents of San Pedro so that we are wheeled into heightened empathy. As the residents of San Pedro are forced to examine the past and how it has shaped their identities and motives, we are induced to do the same. Consequently, we can only end the book more enriched.

Editorial/Letter Policy

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'Faux-punk' Group Spoon: Different is Good

by Curtis M. Meyer
Staff Writer

"Just what you need. It's never enough," draws Britt Daniels over the top of an astounding, yet simple riff in the song "The Guestlist/The Execution."

Daniels is the singer/songwriter/guitarist for the Austin-based band Spoon. The song is from their latest effort "A Series of Sneaks."

These lyrics basically sum up my feelings for the song. It's over too soon. At two minutes and three seconds, the song is almost over before it even begins. The hooks in the song are so strong and quick they snag you before you're even aware of what's going on and leave you dancing in silence when it suddenly ends without that last chorus you'd expect from a pop song. It is never enough. This is a good thing according to Jim Eno, drummer for Spoon. I complained to him when he called from a tour stop in Columbus, OH.

"A great thing about the way Britt writes songs," Eno said, "is that if it doesn't need an extra part, we don't go there. You want the listener to want to hear the song again. We feel it's better to have short, concise songs that come to the point."

I'd assume that's what they mean when they refer to themselves as a faux punk band.

Spoon shocks you by tying the pop song norm into a whole new knot and then wearing it out in public with white shoes and belt to accessorize a brown suit after dark. Frank Sinatra would definitely have pulled Spoon aside and given them a good talking



Spoon members (from left to right) Jim Eno, Britt Daniel and Joshua Zarbo

to before sending them home to change.

"We try to stay away from 'verse, chorus, verse, chorus, bridge, chorus, end,'" Eno said. "Personally, I think that makes Britt's songs very interesting and surprising too."

Damn straight! Why should we be slaves to fashion when we can start our own?

Spoon recently made the jump to a major label. Elektra released "A Series of Sneaks" in April. Their previous works, the full-length album "Telephono" and the EP "Soft Effects" were both released by the indie label Matador Records in 1996 and 1997, respectively. Matador, in my opinion, the best label in the world, has a great reputation for allowing their bands massive freedom of control with their projects. Some might expect Spoon's sound to change in order to conform with a major label's pressure to sell units.

"We didn't feel that pressure," Eno said. "The record was already done [before signing with Elektra] and we basically

just shopped it around. Who knows what'll happen [with the next record]. Supposedly we have complete creative control. So far working with Elektra has been great."

I asked Eno how he personally had evolved in Spoon's new recording project compared to the past projects for Matador.

"I think I was much more anal about the drum sounds that I got," Eno said. "Telephono" was done when we were just learning the 'studio side' of stuff. It has more of an organic feel to it. There was more tension. The songs weren't polished. I wanted to go for a more natural drum sound on 'A Series of Sneaks.' We had more time to experiment with the sound."

Daniels' guitar sound is serious, strange distortion originating from an acoustic guitar plugged into a Fender 212 Stage amplifier. This is not only strange to see onstage, but also different from a sonic perspective to folks who are used to the "rawk" mainstay of Gibson "Les Paul" or

Fender "Stratocaster" through cranked Marshall half-stack. But in this current era of "modern rock" musical mediocrity, different is good.

"He's getting a unique sound," Eno said. "Live, to me, it doesn't sound like an electric. The acoustic allows him to get a kind of feedback through the pickups so that he gets a wilder sound."

It's been rumored, however, that a few Austin-ites have seen Daniels plugging into an electric guitar or two on stage lately. Including at a show dubbed the "anti-South By Southwest."

"He's looking for a guitar right now," Eno said. "He hasn't found anything that has the sound of his current setup. There were a couple of shows where he borrowed a friend's hollow body. He was just sort of trying it out. I don't think he liked it as much. There was a point where he was playing an electric a lot. He sort of switches around, but he always ends up going back to the acoustic eventually."

The third and last member of Spoon is currently bassist Joshua Zarbo. I say "currently" because Spoon chokes up bass players faster than Spinal Tap can kill off drummers. Spoon's original bassist from their 1993 inception was Andy Meguire. She separated from Spoon to help form the Austin-based band Sincola. Since then, a friend or two has occasionally stepped up to help them on stage, but Zarbo is definitely the permanent replacement to provide the band with a low end.

Spoon is currently roaming the country with the band Swervedriver. Eno admitted he was glad to be away from Austin temporarily because "it's hot" there this time of year. They will be stopping in Omaha to play a set at Sokol Hall on June 20th. Let's hope they can bring some of that Texas heat to the metro.

Jack Kasher: UNO's Expert on UFO's, Conspiracies and All Things Weird

by Eileen Kenney
Senior Staff Writer

"If asked, I'd go," said John C. (Jack) Kasher, UNO physics professor, but first he advised doing a background check. "Certainly if I thought I'd come back, (I'd go)."

Where? Outer space. Or possibly anywhere an alien (or extraterrestrial, as Kasher prefers to call them.) suggested they go.

Kasher is the central regional director of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) in charge of 20 central states. He is also the Nebraska State Director, and a physics consultant for the group, which is dedicated to the scientific study of UFOs (unidentified flying objects).

While Fox Mulder of the "X-Files" would have skeptics believe "the truth is out there," Kasher said it is important to get the truth out there, we are not alone, and the government knows it.

For over 10 years, Kasher has given talks on UFOs, investigated sightings, and checked out crop circles - mysterious flattening of farm fields in patterns and designs. Is that in contrast to his being a physicist, a man of science?

"My interest in UFOs is certainly related to my scientific background," he said. "I approach it as a physicist and try

to apply the science to it as much as I can."

As he explains the science behind the possibility of "super-fast" space travel, the vocabulary and terminology list grows: gravitational fields, Einstein's theory of relativity, warping of space. "It all fits," Kasher said. "There is science we understand that we can't do ourselves that would allow for (extraterrestrials) to get here."

When addressing the possibility of alien abductions, Kasher is careful in attributing the absolutes to those directly involved. "It is possible," he said. "They feel this (abduction) has happened to them." He readily admits some people don't think these kinds of things are real, but as more and more people have video cameras, there is more video evidence, and that helps a lot.

"It seems to be emerging in the public consciousness as an accepted idea," he said. "You get jokes and magazine advertisements, and people know exactly what you're talking about when you have an alien abducting somebody. So, people are really becoming aware, and that will help too."

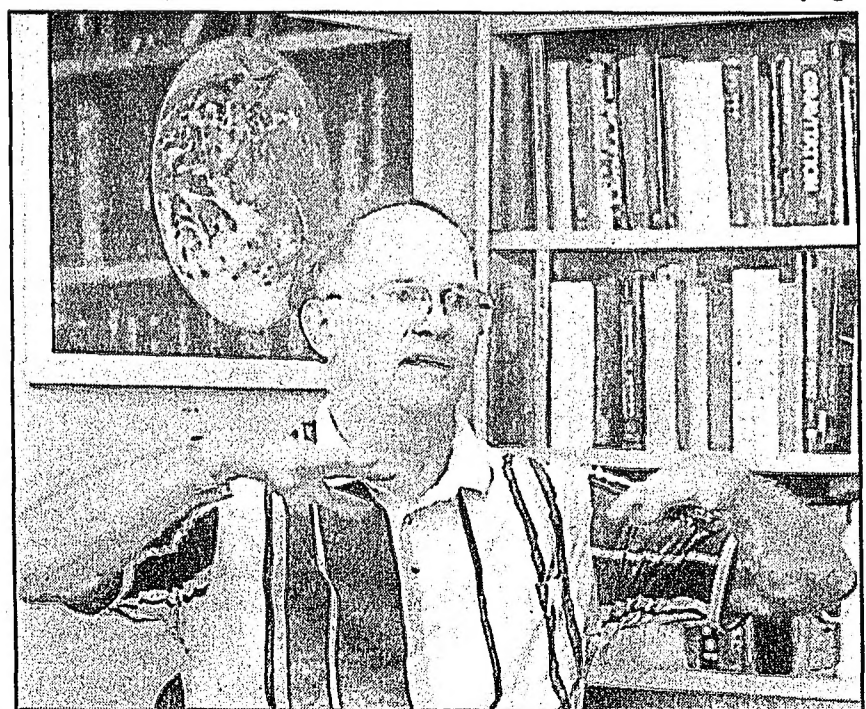
That awareness could turn into a movement to make the government reveal what they know. Kasher said, as the conversation took an "X-Files" turn. Putting it "very carefully," Kasher said he believes there may be some basis in fact for some of the things viewers see on the "X-Files." The popular television show has gone Hol-

lywood with a big-screen version making its premier on June 19, and a central theme of the show involves conspiracy, government involvement, and a massive cover-up. Is the government keeping something from us?

"Oh, absolutely," Kasher said. "I

would not use the word conspiracy, but cover-up, definitely." It's not a matter of truth versus conjecture, he said. "Documents exist dealing with UFOs, and people have tried to access them through the Freedom of Information Act. The courts have

See UFO, page 7



UNO's "Jack" Kasher, the area's leading expert on UFO's and related phenomena, discusses the upcoming X-Files movie in a recent interview.

From previous page.

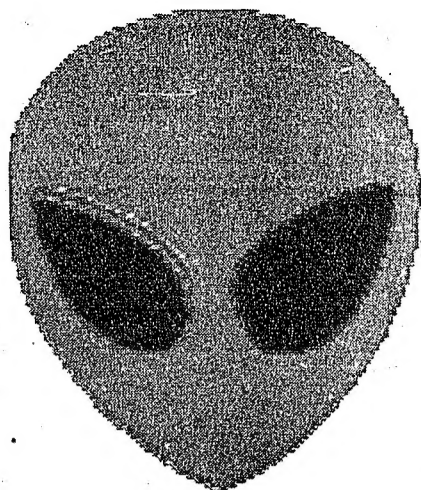
agreed with the government in two particular instances, that it would be detrimental to national security to release the information. There is no debate that there is a cover-up," he said. "The debate is over what is being covered up."

In terms of why the government would keep this a secret, Kasher suggests there may be many different reasons. "From a cautious standpoint, I think maybe the government thinks it would be too much for us to take, to realize that extraterrestrials are here. They want to shield us from that shock. Maybe in the late 1940s that was a good idea, but not now."

Alien visits and cover-ups dating back to the 40s? Yes, according to Kasher. "There are even indications in Biblical times. You could work up a pretty good argument that we have been visited for thousands of years, but certainly since World War II." That seems like a long time to be visiting without leaving proof positive. What is the point of it all and will we ever know for sure?

Kasher surmises that visitors are probably far more advanced than we, and it would not be difficult for them to conceal themselves. In addition, there is the possibility of some kind of mind game or trick. "Just look at what we're doing with virtual-reality," he said. "Imagine that technology extended beyond."

"One common thing for abductees is that many don't remember being taken aboard," Kasher said, "so there is the pos-



sibility of some way of repressing memories. For those who might think this whole thing is something drummed up by hypnosis, 30 percent of the people who say they have been abducted consciously remember it, so you have to deal with that."

Sometime this July, Kasher expects to be visited by a film crew preparing a documentary on Whitley Strieber's new

book, "Confirmation: The Hard Evidence of Aliens Among Us." Strieber, who believes he has been abducted, has written a number of books on the subject of abductions and extraterrestrials. Kasher is mentioned in this most recent book, but not as an abductee. Rather, it is for his work in the study of a NASA video dealing with UFOs.

"Strieber is looking for a scientific analysis of things. He is trying to point out that we really should get involved in this and quit thinking that it is something far-out that you have to be half-crazy to be involved and interested in. It's not," Kasher said.

After giving his talks on UFOs, Kasher said members of the audience frequently approach him. "They will come up and tell me about their experience. It's something they don't like to talk about until they know that you will listen to them. To give them a chance to get that off their chests, so to speak, is really satisfying."

Kasher ventured to say that more people have been abducted than the general population realizes. "The number of people who have undergone treatment/counseling in the United States alone is in the tens of thousands," he said. "This is not a trivial thing we are looking at. Those types of numbers make it a very serious

problem that needs to be looked at whether you believe that is what is really happening or not. Something is going on."

When asked if he has seen a UFO, Kasher said yes, but it wasn't anything spectacular enough to warrant calling 911. Has he ever been abducted? "No, not that I know of," he said. "It's just as well that I haven't. I can talk about it as an outsider looking in. In some ways that is more effective than saying, 'I've been abducted. Let me tell you about it.' They would tend to back off right away."

Here in Omaha there is a group of more than 60 people who feel they have been abducted at some time in their lives, Kasher said. Some say they have been abducted from Omaha and the surrounding area, others just live here now. "I know some of them personally. I also know others who prefer not to go to groups like that this has happened to."

MUFON currently has between five thousand and six thousand members internationally, Kasher said.

For believers interested in joining MUFON, abductees or not, Kasher said to give him a call. "We'd be happy to have more members."

UNMC Educating Pharmacists On Herbal Interactions

by Linda Black
Staff Writer

Aisles in drugstores have blossomed into herbal gardens in recent years. Even with the ever increasing popularity of these products, their safety is not guaranteed. Herbal remedies can cause interactions with many prescription medications, which is why the University of Nebraska Medical Center's College of Pharmacy is incorporating a new class titled Herbal Medications into their curriculum.

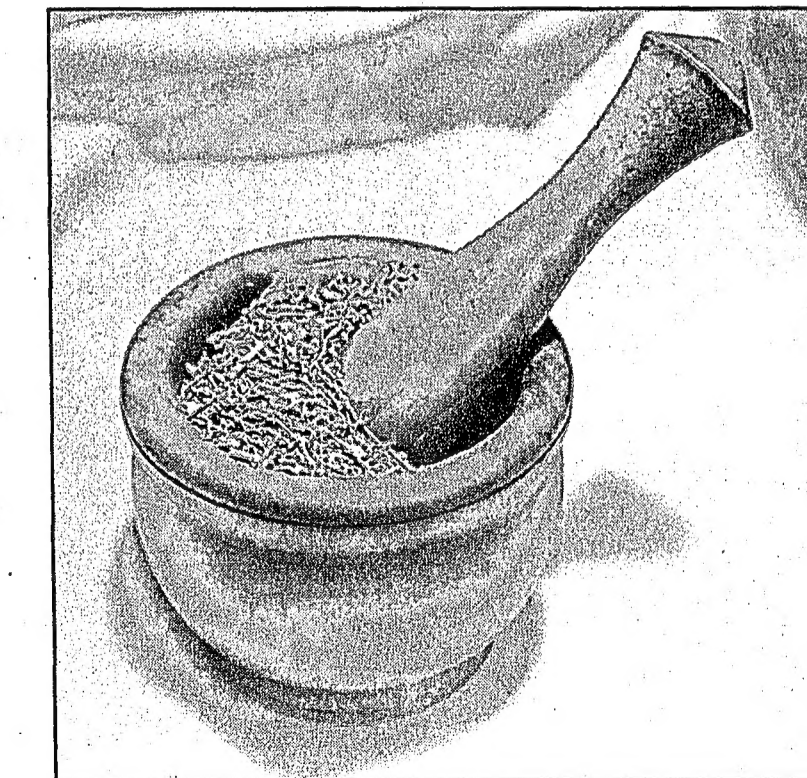
The class urges students to adopt the attitude that herbs are unapproved drugs, said Wallace Murray, Ph.D., associate professor, coordinator of educational programs of pharmaceutical sciences assistant dean for curriculum development at UNMC. Since the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) considers herbal medicine a dietary supplement, they don't regulate what is in them.

"You're not sure if what you are buying is what you intended," Murray said.

In addition to concerns about the quality of herbal products, there is also questions about their safety. For example ginkgo biloba taken in conjunction with coumadin, a blood thinner, increases the tendency of bleeding, Murray said.

Patients have few reliable resources available to acquire this information. Many health care professionals are not educated in this subject matter. In addition, clinical studies on herbal products have been limited because there is no one to finance the studies.

Many feel that herbal products are safe simply because they are natural, but Murray said they do contain pharmacological agents that produce physical effects. He said the misconception about the ineffectiveness of herbs simply is not true, they have been used with success for many cen-



Herbal remedies, such as St. John's Wort (above), have received much media attention as they move into the medical mainstream.

turies. Patients are using them to control and relieve symptoms associated with certain disease states, he said.

Kava is used to treat several ailments, according to "The Complete Guide to Alternative and Conventional Treatments" by Time Life, including insomnia, anxiety, gout, urinary disorders and depression.

Ginseng treats stress, fatigue and depression, but may also cause serious side effects such as asthma attacks, high blood pressure and heart palpitations.

One of the tested remedies that is a good example of the value of herbal medi-

cations is echinacea, Murray said. Taking it at the first sign of a cold or flu, will boost the sufferer's immune system.

Murray feels it is crucial for pharmacy students to be aware of both the positive and negative interactions between herbal medication and traditional drugs. The class will enable pharmacists to spot dangerous combinations.

Weeding through the cautions and testimonials for herbal medications has heightened the awareness of the health care community that the consumer needs educated answers to their questions.

Library: Special Collections Gets Nip & Tuck

by Eileen Kenney
Senior Staff Writer

Most students, even if they are aware of the existence of the special collections, have probably never been inside the collections area. That is likely to continue to be the case, even after renovation.

UNO is home to a number of rare, valuable and fragile items, said Janice S. Boyer, the library's interim director. One example is the Arthur Paul Afghanistan Collection, which is one of the largest collections of materials on Afghanistan in the world, and includes some materials dating back to 1787.

"Some things are not so much rare as they are unusual," said Boyer. "We don't really open up the rooms to the public or put the items into circulation." Materials are available for use, but must be retrieved by staff and can be used only in designated reading areas.

Among other things, the collections area is home to books and articles written by present and former faculty members of UNO and Omaha University. There are also a number of first editions and autographed copies of books by Nebraska authors including Wright Morris, Weldon Kees, and Wayne C. Lee.

Most recently the collections area had been walled off into four separate rooms and a hallway. By knocking down the interior walls, the library gains 110 square feet of space, said Marc Davis, building manager. "The previous layout made it hard to maintain the collections and limited the amount of shelf space. We had to keep a lot of stuff in storage."

According to Davis, the three main reasons for the renovation are to address the space problem, allow for display of the full range of the collections, and to aid in planning for future use. The expanded space would be suitable for classroom use if the collections were ever moved, he said.

photo illustration by Chris Machian

How Dry I Am: The Dangers of Dehydration

by Andy Nordmeier
Senior Staff Writer

Thirsty?

If so, it's already too late.

Thirst is one of the first signs of dehydration. The condition is most prevalent in summer, especially when temperatures are over 80 degrees and the humidity is high.

Dehydration is defined by the American College of Preventive Medicine as being "a rapid loss of body fluids without replacement."

The body loses fluids primarily through urination and sweating.

Symptoms of dehydration are dry lips and tongue, bright or dark colored urine, apathy and lethargy, according to the University of California's Cooperative Extension Consumer Science Division.

When dehydration hits, common sense says liquids are needed. Stopping activity and heading for a cooler spot is important as well.

"Water's the best," said Joel Bauch, director of the UNO Outdoor Venture Center. Bauch said sport drinks contain electrolytes, such as potassium and sodium, that help the body to replenish fluids, but not well enough. Despite their claims to "quench your deep-down body thirst" they really do not accomplish that.

"You would have to drink gallons



photo by Chris Machian

Greg Keith, right, and Taz jog through Elmwood Park on a hot Saturday. To prevent dehydration, Keith should drink water before his run.

of Gatorade to do what they claim it does," Bauch said. "It's actually got more sugar in it than anything else."

Pop is a poor choice because it also contains a lot of sugar plus another evil, caffeine. The American Institute of Preven-

tive Medicine warns not to drink alcohol or beverages with caffeine to quench thirst because they speed up fluid loss.

Since Maverick athletes don't have the time to guzzle gallons of sports drinks, they rely on water.

"When we're out on the field, out

on the court, or out on the ice we prefer that they're just drinking water," said Mav trainer Rusty McKune, "at least that's my preference."

At times, the Mavs do use sports drinks but they are prepared differently.

"If we do use a sports drink," McKune said, "we prefer to water it down a little bit due to the high sugar content." McKune noted that this leads to a quicker absorption by the body.

The Mav training staff educates athletes on how to prevent dehydration. Diet also plays an important part. They eat plenty of fruits and vegetables because they contain a lot of water. Salt is also part of that diet because it helps regulate water levels in the body.

Another way to prevent dehydration is to avoid the heat and humidity all together. When venturing into the heat is a must, bring water along and drink it before thirst strikes.

The ideal way to stay hydrated is by drinking plenty of water. Nutrition experts advise drinking four to eight ounces of fluid before beginning exercise. For every 20 minutes of physical activity, they recommend drinking at least four ounces of fluid. If any weight occurs after a workout, drink two cups of fluid per pound of weight loss.

If left untreated, dehydration can lead to more serious conditions such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke. The best way to prevent dehydration is by using good old common sense.

Renaissance Faire A Medieval Feast for the Senses

From Faire, page 1

of the activities. Everyone there seemed to be having a good time. It was fun to see all of the different people dressed up. The most enjoyable thing for me was the singing executioners."

The two singing executioners Price mentioned are named Snee (Al Olson) and Blogg (John Doering). These two entertainers, who have been performing together for 20 years, make up "The Singing

Knights, jesters, jousters, ladies of the court, executioners and a host of spectators revelled at the Faire Saturday

Executioners." Their singing and dancing always "knocks 'em dead" and "keeps the ball rolling."

These hilarious executioners teach their audience how to "get a head" in show business. Their act includes titles like "If I Were a Henchman," "At the Block," "In the Dungeon" and "Wild and Crazy Executioners."

Snee and Blogg encouraged their

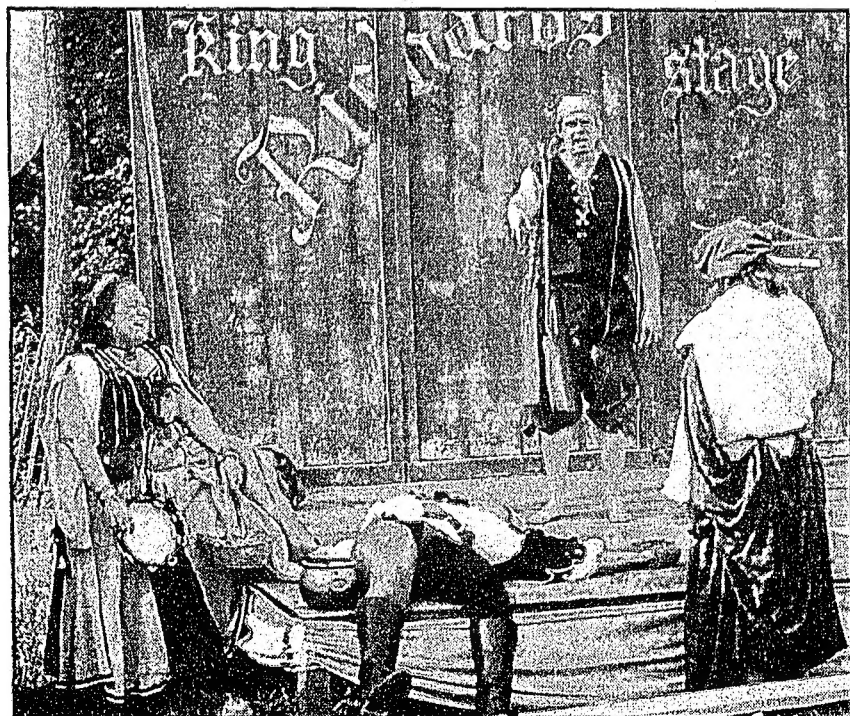


photo by Chris Machian

On Saturday, enthusiastic characters from the Renaissance Faire ham it up for professional and amateur photographers, as well as the faire-goers.



photo by Chris Machian

Knights on horseback wheel their chargers in a mock battle Saturday. Jousters were just a few of the delights to be found Saturday at the Faire.

audience to "stick their heads out" and get involved in the act.

The Tortuga Twins from Palm Harbor, Florida followed Snee and Blogg. The three-member, multi-talented comedy troupe performed acts of juggling, sword fighting and gymnastics. Once again, audience participation was highly encouraged.

Audience participation is the basis for the Renaissance Faire. As I walked into the gates, I was greeted by a sheriff who used a rope to pull three young criminals. The lads were under

arrest for kissing the queen. Since the queen was fairly old, the young lads shouldn't have been arrested, they should have been given counseling. But one of the criminals named Spickle said, "the punishment for stealing a kiss from the queen is prison, hehehe."

The constant attention to detail and humor was ever present. Even the women dressed up as wenches were authentic. They drank green and blue liquids and ate dirt. One wench affectionately told me and other passer-bys, "God made dirt, so dirt don't hurt."

UNMC Hosted Annual Health/Science Meet to "Grow Our Own"



photo by Chris Machlan

Students from across the state got opportunities to explore, hands-on, health and science related topics at the Sixth Annual Health/Science Meet, sponsored by the UNMC over the weekend.

Sixty eighth-grade students from across Nebraska attended the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Sixth Annual Health/Science Meet on June 11-13.

Students were selected to attend the meet based on science projects they submitted in regional competitions held in North Platte, Kearney, Lincoln, Beatrice, Scottsbluff and Omaha.

Students were kept busy during the full expense-paid three-day, two-night stay in Omaha by participating in hands-on activities in education, research and patient care. Activities included touring UNMC's campus, visiting a research laboratory, viewing the cause of strokes in

a human brain, using liquid nitrogen to freeze flowers and making slime out of household products.

Workshops ranging from the "ABC's of DNA" to "The Brace Place" to "Dentistry" exposed students to various careers in health sciences. Students also enjoyed a pizza party and trips to the new Offutt Strategic Air Command Museum and Mahoney State Park.

UNMC is committed to "Growing Our Own" health-care professionals for Nebraska. The meet is just one of several programs designed to inspire students to pursue a career in health sciences. More than 500 eighth-graders have participated in the meet since it began in 1992.

From DISABLED page 2

rection. Schools are required to test children every three years. The earlier the disability is detected, the easier compensation skills are acquired.

After the student provides the proper documentation, Nielson discusses possible accommodations with the individual, such as using a tutor, adopting new study strategies, and academic assistance.

"This can include anything from having the student practice taking tests in the testing center to having a note taker in class," Nielson said.

She explained that simple things, such as textbooks on tape, talking calculators, or speech controlled tape recorders can be helpful. In addition, Nielson said taking more time on a test or doing essays or short answer quizzes on a computer can help students organize their thoughts.

Some of the accommodations UNO provides are quite advanced. For example, JAWS is a voice synthesizer that can read aloud the text from the computer to

the student. Text size and color can be changed by using ASAP Articulation.

Help for students is a "collaboration" between many different departments, and "a little bit of the outside," said Nielson. UNO also offers services through the Learning Center, the Library, and Vocational Rehabilitation.

UNO's policy is to "provide for the needs of enrolled or admitted students who have disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans Disabilities Act of 1990," according to Services for Students with Disabilities.

Most students who have a learning disability feel embarrassed or self-conscious if they ask for help. They don't want to be viewed as different or weird.

"These students can always learn new compensation skills," said Nielson. "But they have to ask for the help."

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UNO's Center For Afghanistan Studies and Unocal

From UNOCAL Page 1

He also acted as tour guide for the Taliban visitors while they were in the Midwest. "These visitors were sponsored by the Institute of International Education (IIE.) To my knowledge, they were brought here specifically to see historical sites and natural sites to see how they are preserved here in the U.S.," he said.

Basheer said the two visitors, Abdul Rahman Hotak, deputy minister of infor-

mation and culture and Najibullah Popak, deputy director of museums arrived on May 29.

Basheer said the "unofficial letter from Unocal" arrived on June 2. "I don't think this letter has anything to do with their arrival," he said.

"I'm very puzzled by that," said Len Scensny, press officer over Afghanistan at the State Department. As to whether Unocal or the State Department had anything to do with these two visitors' arrival, he said he'd "have to check on that" but that "we don't do that."

"The State Department had nothing to do with them coming — the U.S. Information Agency may have — they work closely with us," Scensny said.

Covington shone a light on the link: "Yes, we invited them here awhile ago — just as we had done with the Northern Alliance (the groups fighting against the Taliban,)" she said.

"They'd expressed an interest in knowing who we were, so we invited them to Houston and provided them exactly the same visit as we had done with the Northern Alliance a year prior. While some might find it controversial, the visits were continuing the dialogue as to how this project can benefit their country," Covington said. "We did sponsor, but not all of [the visit.] They were brought last Fall, so those two statements [concerning the aforementioned articles] don't match up," she said.

"You cleared up the confusion: the visitors came through the U.S. International Visitors Program," Scensny said. He acknowledged that the visitors were here to simply observe practices relevant to their official positions with the Taliban movement: preservation of natural formations, art museums, tribal schools.

"They have a serious problem with construction of buildings for art museums in Kabul and looting of those buildings. I believe that was what this [visit] was all about," he said.

"I don't see any correlations between this and Unocal's decision to suspend funding. We're still trying to track down information of any suspension of the Unocal program. The first I heard about it was when [the Gateway] called," Scensny said.

The *OmahaWorld-Herald* article stated that "UNO operates its program in Afghanistan under the auspices of the Taliban organization" and that State Department officials said June 5 that UNO had been unable to establish coeducational training programs or schools in Taliban-controlled areas and, in fact, had failed to open any single-sex schools for girls.

"The Taliban are not particularly influenced by anybody outside Afghanistan," Scensny said. "Responsible Taliban leaders probably are happy to see the good from the program with Unocal. I see this as simply a business decision."

"UNO operates its program under the auspices of the Taliban? — that's totally wrong," said Gouttierre said. "UNO works under its own auspices in Taliban and non-Taliban areas. This project doesn't only include training of Talibs but teacher training programs in non-Taliban areas for women master teachers who will, in turn, train other teachers for girls' school education," he said.

In Taliban regions, Gouttierre concurred that setting up girls' schools has been a formidable task. "It has been our hope — we've been negotiating — so it won't happen in a short space of time that we're going to be providing girls' school education and training," he said.

"Numbers of Talibs have asked about this and have been working to get this done because they're aware of their unfavorable public image," he said.

"Some single sex schools for girls have been functioning in Talib areas but they're not new," Gouttierre said. "They've been there and don't have much revenue in any time frame."

"The only new educational programs in Afghanistan are these projects UNO is doing," he said. "There are others that have been funded through the UN. Those are largely ongoing projects that are the result of activities started many years ago," Gouttierre said.

"It's a very sensitive issue — but we yield to no one in our belief, need, and the

right for girls to be educated along with the boys. We've long been leaders in this area concerning Afghanistan," he said. "We try to accomplish our objectives in this area by being as politic as we can and I think that we had no expectations that we would be able to walk right in and immediately be able to do things," Gouttierre said.

"Last November we had a very successful teacher training program in Baamiyaan (an area outside Taliban control,)" Basheer said. "Women came from all over the country to enroll. The chief of the ATEP party, Professor Abdul Salam Azimi is a very respected person there — he belongs to no factions. He's trying to convince [the Taliban] to open schools, but so far has been unable to do so," Basheer said. "In the areas under control of the Taliban, the people want it [girls' schools,] but the government does not," he said. "They can't get to Baamiyaan. It's too expensive, when transporting one person on a plane is \$250 U.S. dollars one way," Basheer said.

Covington said the potential decision is "obviously a financial problem."

"We're in a project that's in a development stage," she said. "We don't know when things in Afghanistan may evolve to the point that we can get financing, negotiate the rest of the agreement and actually construct the pipeline."

"What we wanted to do was give UNO enough lead time to see if they could seek other sources of funding or to see if maybe we can still find a way to participate," Covington said.

"The social fabric of Afghanistan was destroyed by the war with the Soviet Union, and they are having the devil's own time trying to put it back together again," Gouttierre said. "We don't in any way concur that there should be no education for females. What we do believe is that we want to educate Afghan youth," he said.

"The ATEP training program was designed to do two things. In the short run, it was designed to teach people skills that could be used to rebuild their country," Covington said. "In the long run, the same skills would be useful to us if we were to build a pipeline. But in no way was [the program] designed to help us win a contract. It's not totally altruistic, but these skills will be useful whether we build a pipeline or not," she said.

"In the last six months, we've trained more than 30 female Afghan teachers who will in turn be able to train hundreds of other Afghan girls," Gouttierre said. "We've trained 114 boys who were otherwise not being educated or who were more than likely toting guns for some army or another... or refugees with nothing to do. When I was just there in Quandahaar, they had just gone through various stages of training in auto repair, plumbing, welding. Already in just their second month of training, large numbers of these students already had jobs," Gouttierre said.

"I think this program is already a success and demonstrates that UNO has the capability to do something not many would be able to do or have the courage to do," Covington said. "At the end of the day, we want to be fair. I think we've done the right things anyway... we'll now have to see if we can find some additional funding somewhere," Covington said. "I'm just glad we've been able to take it this far."

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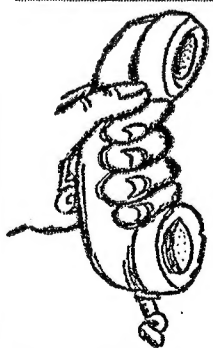


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From LIBRARY, page 1

"It's nice to hear, and we appreciate being at the top of wish lists," Boyer said. "But we still don't get any money. At one time we were number one on the capital expenditures list, but we have since gotten much closer to the bottom."

"The need is great and it is a major priority," said Klein. "But the cost of moving a library forward with the technology needed increases exponentially."

Jacquelyn Johnston, assistant director of development for the NU Foundation, noted that because UNO is a commuter campus, the library is the only place other than the Milo Bail Student Center where students can gather. "They do need more space, but can that be done by design? Does there have to be more building? We are looking for the balance between space, books and technology. Before we can decide how to approach that, before we even approach donors, we'd like to know what we're building, what we're looking at in terms of what we're doing for the library."

Johnston spoke of bringing in an expert on building space, information and technology to make recommendations on what is needed to have a "library of the next century." Asking a person who just works in a library to go through and make decisions on what should be done would not be the way to go, she said. Recommendations from an expert would be the only way to get past what happens with the University of Nebraska Board of Regents saying "No" [to renovation/expansion proposals].

Boyer did however have some ideas. "This is one of the few academic libraries I have ever been in that didn't have a good number of group study rooms," she said. That is what students do these days, they work together. They need a place to go, so what they do here is just grab a table and make their own group study space. Certainly we need space for those kinds of things."

Limited access to electrical outlets was another problem Boyer cited. "We have one double plug in every pillar," she said. "And they're 30 feet apart. If we could only put in a drop ceiling, that would help with the wiring. And we have such poor lighting. It's not just that we want more space to put up more book stacks. We want to make it better people space and better electronic space for people. This building once won architectural awards," Boyer said. "But now..."

Library Specialist Les Valentine could not confirm that the library had ever won any architectural awards, but did find a program from the 1976 dedication which "praised the beauty and



photo by Steve Houlton

Jim Petrich, left, and Paul Easterling gather materials to begin a minor renovation to the library's special collection area..

functionality of the new library, and bragged about its modernity," he said. The program also refers to the library as "the centerpiece of any educational institution."

"It's easy to say now 'they didn't plan well,'" Valentine said. "But you have to remember that planning would have had to start in the early 70s before we had all this technology." In fact, the program does make reference to being ready for changing needs in terms of computers and telecommunication devices, but notes that "the roominess of the building allows for the comfortable integration of new developments."

Money for the initial "expert assessment" of future needs and plans would have to come from the chancellor's discretionary funds, Johnston said. Once recommendations were made, then what?

According to Johnston, the Dr. C.C. and Mable L. Criss Memorial Foundation has pledged \$4 million for the library, and Boyer said she hopes to receive some funding from the technical user fee students will start paying in the fall. But taking care of what needs to be done, or what some would like to have done, is projected to cost \$11 million.

"What we run into is that most donors think

that with computers, there is really no reason for bricks and mortar for libraries," Boyer said. A case in point might be the new J.D. Edwards honors program in computer science and management.

When the NU Foundation originally approached University of Nebraska-Lincoln alumni C. Edward and Carole L. McVane, it was to request funding for the J.D. Edwards Library. The McVaneys said "No," offering instead to pledge \$32 million for the new honors program.

"If someone had said, 'Here's \$32 million. Spend it any way you want,' we probably would have done something different than what we're doing," said Drew Miller, NU Regent. "But in my opinion, you can't over-focus on the technology and information science. It's too big to our economy. Libraries are to some degree outdated."

"Yes, we do still need them. But rather than building more and more book space for physical books, we ought to be putting our money more into digital books. Sooner or later libraries like the Library of Congress will all be on-line. Eventually, every book in the world will be available on-line electronically. At that point, I'm not going to Love Library or UNO's library when I can get on the computer, do a key word search, and do everything from my office or my home. Putting a lot of money into the bricks and mortar for a library isn't smart," he said.

That kind of attitude is frightening to Boyer who offered an analogy in terms of videocassette recorders. "What if you had a whole bunch of your information on Beta tapes and everybody else had VHS machines?" she asked. "How would they access your information? What is going to happen a few years from now when we have all this (library) on the DOS system and the people of the future don't even know anymore what DOS stands for and they can't get to the information?"

"I'm a big computer person, and there are a lot of things the computer does well," Boyer said. "But there is a place for paper and there will be a place for paper in the foreseeable future. We have students come in here looking for something from 50, 100, even 1000 years ago. If we didn't have paper resources, they wouldn't find what they need. From a preservation standpoint, it is really frightening to think that all the support is for computer storage when we have no idea what the mediums are going to be 5 years from now, let alone 100 years from now."

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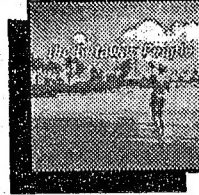
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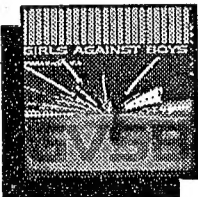


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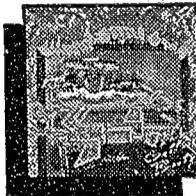
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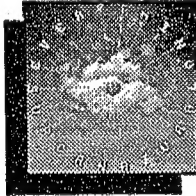
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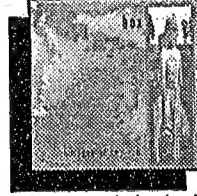
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